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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 002592

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [OREP](#) [IZ](#) [IS](#) [SY](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: KING EMPHASIZES POLITICAL REFORM WITH CODEL DREIER

REF: AMMAN 2378

Classified By: CDA David Hale for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

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Summary  
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1. (C) In a March 27 meeting with Codel Dreier, King Abdullah described the importance of comprehensive social, economic and political reform in Jordan. The King reiterated his support of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas as a partner for peace. The King stated that he did not believe Syria would pull out of Lebanon completely and he confirmed that Jordan backs all efforts to restore Iraq's stability. Prince Faisal explained that the recent FMF supplemental request will boost border security. End Summary.

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Comprehensive Reform  
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2. (C) In a March 27 meeting with Codel Dreier, King Abdullah described his recent visit to the United States as "excellent." The King stated that he had returned to Jordan aware that the government was in danger of complacency on reform, particularly on democratization. He said that the GOJ had received a wake-up call to move forward with comprehensive reform that focused on political as well as social and economic modernization. DPM Marwan Muasher and Prince Faisal echoed this line in earlier meetings with Codel Dreier. Muasher and Faisal both said Jordan had excelled in economic reforms, but needed to re-focus on political development in advance of 2007 parliamentary elections. Congressman David Dreier remarked that while the United States tends to think it has the monopoly on democracy, it continues to learn how best to implement democratic principles. Muasher joined the King in the meeting with Codel Dreier as did Royal Court Minister Samir Rifai.

3. (C) Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart thanked the King for Jordan's steadfast support and complemented him on his reform efforts. Diaz-Balart emphasized that the United States firmly believed that strong political parties and an empowered parliament were key to democratization and stability. He hoped the King's reform program would focus on these two issues. The King responded that Jordan needs to maintain its momentum on reform and explained how the National Agenda Committee (reftel) grew from the G-8 conference at Sea Island. Muasher said the committee would publish its 10-year reform plan in September 2005. He claimed it would differ from previous plans because it will contain performance standards, performance indicators, and a specific timeline. Muasher said the Prime Ministry would monitor the implementation of the reform agenda and publish its findings on a regular basis. Future governments would "be bound" by the agenda.

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Abbas: Partner for Peace  
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4. (C) Congressman Doc Hastings expressed his gratitude for the King's leadership in the region and asked for his views on the Middle East Peace Process. The King reiterated his support for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and called Abbas a partner for peace. The King said that Abbas had the will for peace, but was in need of international support to help him win the Arab street. He explained that through economic assistance Abbas could show tangible results of the peace process to the Palestinian people. The King spoke of how Abbas had broken with former Palestinian President Yasir Arafat early regarding the intifada and that Abbas knew that violence would lead nowhere. The King said he felt cautiously optimistic about the peace process and described the roadmap as the only means to achieve a just and comprehensive resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

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King Concerned Syria Will Remain in Lebanon  
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5. (C) Congressman Ander Crenshaw conveyed his appreciation to the King for the role Jordan has played in the peace process and in the Global War on Terror. He asked the King how he perceived Syria's recent moves in Lebanon. The King

cited three reasons for his concern that Syria might not completely pull out of Lebanon. First, he pointed to Syria's desire to maintain radar sites on the heights of Lebanon for early detection of potential Israeli air strikes. Secondly, he estimated that Syria's presence in Lebanon allowed Syria to siphon off between one and three billion USD worth of economic benefits. Thirdly, he believed the Syria-Iran-Hizballah axis would be severely weakened if Syria lost its military and intelligence presence in Lebanon; the Syrian government "would not let this happen." Even if Syria withdrew all of its troops, it could exert significant control through Syrian and Lebanese intelligence agencies. That said, the King counseled against a U.S. or Israeli military option.

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Support for Iraq  
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16. (C) The King reconfirmed Jordan's support for restoring Iraqi stability and commented on Jordan's efforts to attain that goal. He highlighted Jordan's role in providing counter-insurgency training to the Iraqi military. He noted that Iraqi units that received this training performed well last year in Falluja. The King said he thought the Iraqi police training in Jordan was good, but could be improved. He understood the quantity versus quality balance that needed to be taken into consideration, but felt that the current six-week course was too short.

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FMF Supplemental  
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17. (C) Dreier asked Prince Faisal to explain the reasons behind the request for an FMF supplemental. Faisal highlighted two incidents that demonstrated the terrorist threat in Jordan; the disrupted April 2004 chemical bomb threat and the car bomb attempt at the Iraqi border crossing in December 2004. According to Faisal, investigations into the April bomb threat revealed most of the equipment and supplies had arrived in Jordan through normal border control points. This countered their previous belief that such material usually crossed the border in areas controlled by the military. Based on this information Faisal said that the GOJ began to look at the border in a more comprehensive manner in order to better integrate the military, border police, and civil response forces. He explained that the request for a supplemental was intended to provide better communications and information technology systems to make coordination more seamless. The goal of this integration is to prevent infiltration. Faisal mentioned the border with Saudi Arabia as a new concern for infiltration that they must now cover. In the past they focused primarily on the borders with Israel, Syria and Iraq. Faisal reiterated that these funds were intended for border security and counterterrorism; not for large weapon system procurements.

17. (U) Codel Dreier did not have the opportunity to clear on this message.

18. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.

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